

March 23, 2004

The Honorable L. Alma Mansell
President of the Senate
and
The Honorable Martin R. Stephens
Speaker of the House

Dear President Mansell and Speaker Stephens:

This letter is to inform you that on March 23, 2004, I declined to concur on House Concurrent Resolution 6, and transmitted it to the Lieutenant Governor for filing.

The resolution calls for a permanent moratorium on internet access fees which is contrary to my position on this issue and the position of the National Governors' Association and most of the other state and local government associations of elected officials.

This resolution advocates that Congress pass legislation to permanently preempt the states' ability to tax and to choose their own economic policies.

The federal bill referenced in this resolution would change the definition of telecommunications and if enacted would damage the existing revenues of the state and local governments.

I will support a bill that would impose a temporary moratorium on internet access fees if the bill provides for a solution to the long-standing issue of collection of use tax by remote sellers.

Sincerely,

Olene S. Walker
Governor